

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: José Algüera, et al.

Examiner:

Serial No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed: September 4, 2003

Date: September 4, 2003

For: DEVICE FOR INDICATING THE LOCKING STATE OF A FIFTH WHEEL
COUPLING AND SENSOR ARRANGEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This invention relates to a device described for indicating the locking state of a fifth wheel coupling and an arrangement of a first and a second sensor. According to the prior art, the first sensor is arranged on the underside of the locking latch and monitors the position of the kingpin in relation to the locking latch. A second sensor that is used is an inductive proximity switch that monitors a safety mechanism against loosening. In practice, this type of positioning of the first sensor has led to damage of the locking latch and the sensor, while the signals of the second sensor were often false signals. Thus, the object of the invention was to provide a device for indicating the locking state, which maximizes operational availability and minimizes false signals. A further object of the invention was to optimize the arrangement of the first and the second sensor. These objects were attained by arranging the first sensor detecting the kingpin in the area of the

locating hole and configuring the second sensor as a magnetically sensitive sensor that interacts with a magnet mounted on the operating lever. The two sensors are based on different mechanisms of action.

As authorized and encouraged under 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.99, applicant hereby cites as a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the following patents and/or documents, copies enclosed, which the Examiner should consider with respect to the above-identified United States Patent Application:

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS		
PATENT/DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY
198 20 139	November 18, 1999	DE

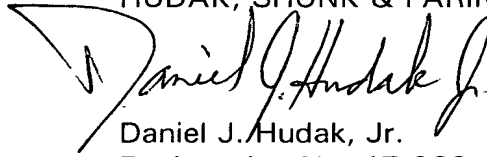
A copy of the publication is included for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with an ample opportunity to evaluate the same and to arrive at an independent assessment of its materiality, if any, with regard to the examination of the application.

In reviewing the enclosed copy of the above publication, the Examiner is requested to ignore any underscoring or highlighting which may appear because such markings may or may not have any relationship to the subject matter of the above-identified application. The copy being submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement is the best copy available at this time.

An examination of the present application considering the above documents is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

HUDAK, SHUNK & FARINE CO. LPA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Hudak, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

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Attorney Docket No.: FMW-BG (J 239 US)

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				Applicant: José Algüera et al.			
				Filing Date: September 4, 2003			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing date if appropriate
	AA						
	AB						
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	<u>Translation</u> Yes No
	AL	198 20 139	November 18, 1999	DE			
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	AN						
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